

AMENDMENTS TO SPECIFICATION

Page 1, before the first paragraph, insert the centered headings:

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BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

A. Field of the Invention --

Page 1, between the first and second paragraphs, insert the centered heading:

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B. Summary of the Invention --

Page 1, second paragraph, amend to read:

-- The invention ~~aims~~ relates to a covering which can be very easily applied and which preferably can also easily be disassembled. --

Page 1, third paragraph, amend to read:

-- ~~To this aim~~ For this purpose, the invention concerns a covering, in particular a floor, ceiling or wall covering, characterised in that it at least includes ~~consists of~~ a number of successive panels on the one hand, and of fixing means therefor on the other hand, which fixing means comprise holders which retain the panels in a disconnectable manner by means of fixing parts, over a part of the thickness of the panels. The term 'to hold' can hereby imply, depending on the aimed embodiment, to fix, to surround, to interlock, to enclose or to clamp. --

Page 1, amend the paragraph spanning pages 1 and 2 to read:

B4
- [The covering contemplates ~~preferably consists of~~ panels, in particular laths, which are mounted in rows, whereby these panels can be removed, at least irrespective of the panels which are situated in the adjacent rows on either side. Thus is obtained that each row of panels can be freely removed, without being hindered by the panels situated next to it, so that a random part of the covering can be dismounted at any time, without damaging the rest of the covering. This part can be situated in the middle of the covering, and it is not necessary to disassemble the covering starting from the edge.] -

Page 6, between the first and second paragraphs, insert the centered heading:

-- | BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE ~~DRAWINGS~~ --

Page 8, before the first paragraph, insert the centered heading:

B3
-- [DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE PREFERRED EMBODIMENTS] -

Page 25, amend the fourth paragraph to read:

B4
- [Figures 42 to 44 represent three variants whereby the above-mentioned tongue and groove joint is formed by means of an inserted element, in this case a strip or spline 37, whereby there is enough play to disassemble the panels 2 separately, without having to remove the adjacent panels.] -

Page 25, amend the fifth paragraph to read as follows:

B? --] The strips or splines 37 are hereby preferably fixed tightly in the seatings 68 provided to this end, either during the manufacturing of the panels 2, or during the assembly of the covering. This offers the advantage that the strips 37 always remain in place in the cross direction, so that the whole can always be disassembled. --]

Page 25, amend the paragraph spanning pages 25 and 26 to read:

Bx --] In the embodiments of figures 42 and 43, such a tight connection can be realised by clamping and/or by gluing the strips 37 in the seatings 68. According to the embodiment of figure 44, use is made of a mechanical interlocking 69, which in this example consists of a protrusion 70 on the panel 2 which meshes in a recess 71 in the strip or spline 37. Naturally, such a mechanical interlocking 69 can also be realised in other ways. Such a mechanical interlocking 69 offers the advantage that the strips or splines 37 can be shifted in the longitudinal direction and thus can be shifted nicely against one another. --]